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SHEAFFER JEANNE M
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ACTION IO-15
INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ISO-00 HA-05 L-03 H-01 PA-01 ICA-11
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R 261225Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO USUN NEW YORK 458
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7301
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, UY
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: INFORMATION REQUEST RE STUDENT ARRESTS IN URUGUAY
REF: USUN 03253

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ON 20 SEPTEMBER A PUBLIC GOU DECREE ANNOUNCED THE ARRESTS OF OMAR CESAR RODRIGUEZ VILLAFON, REPORTEDLY FIRST SECRETARY OF THE URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION (UJC) AND FRANCISCO LAURENZO PONS, REPORTEDLY UJC NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR PROPAGANDA. THE ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO NAMED PEDRO VARELA ESPONDA AS BEING CHIEF OF THE UJC PROPAGANDA DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, BUT DID NOT INDICATE THAT HE WAS CURRENTLY IN CUSTODY. ARREST DATES, CHARGES AND PLACE OF DETENTION WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRESS RELEASE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. AT REQUEST USUN (REFTEL), EMBASSY RAISED CASES OF RODRIGUEZ VILLAFON, LAURENZO PONS AND VARELA ESPONDA, PLUS THAT OF HUGO MONTANO WITH FONOFF HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER CARRESSE. IN CONVERSATION FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE, CARRESSE STATED THAT HE COULD NOT YET CONFIRM ARRESTS OF VARELA OR MONTANO. HE REQUESTED ADDITIONAL

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IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON MONTANO SUCH AS MATRONYMIC OR DATE OF BIRTH.

3. EMBASSY HAD BEEN AWARE OF LAURENZO PONS' ARREST THROUGH OUR HUMAN RIGHTS WALK-IN PROGRAM. HE WAS ARRESTED ON 21 JULY 78 AND IS BELIEVED TO BE CONFINED AT FUSILEROS NAVALES NAVAL PRISON. ON 30 AUGUST, EMBASSY ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT HIS ARREST THROUGH "OFICINA CENTRAL DE INFORMACION DE PERSONAS" (OCIPAIK DIRECTOR COLONEL MAYNARD, AND REITERATED REQUEST ON 21 SEPTEMBER. THUS FAR, HOWEVER, NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY L. Mann DATE 4/29/82
XDS [ ] EXT. DATE
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